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CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1956

'Echo'' Office, Haverhill

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956 on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Clare Rural District.

The Report is drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the population has, so far, continued to be good.

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets throughout the Report relate to the previous year).

Area of the District	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	24
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.56)	£59,825
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£307
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books...	3,013
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	9,350
Population (1951 Census)	9,406

SECTION B.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	(54)	60	(59)	46	(113)	106
Illegitimate	(2)	1	(1)	2	(3)	3
Totals ...	(56)	61	(60)	48	(116)	109

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) ...	(12.5)	11.7
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	(14.8)	13.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(15.0)	15.7
Illegitimate Birth Rate	(2.5%)	2.8%

Still Births:

	Male		Female		Total	
Legitimate	(4)	1	(1)	—	(5)	1
Illegitimate	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—
Totals ...	(4)	1	(1)	—	(5)	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	(41.1)	9.2

Deaths:

Male		Female		Total	
(68)	77	(51)	63	(119)	140

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(12.8)	15.0
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)	(10.4)	12.7
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.7)	11.7
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	(Nil)	Nil

Infant Mortality :

It can be expected that these rates will show considerable variation from year to year as the figures are relatively small.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(1) 4	(1) —	(2) 4
Illegitimate	(—) —	(—) —	(—) —
Totals ...	(1) 4	(1) —	(2) 4

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	(17.2)	36.6
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	(17.7)	37.7
(c) All infants England and Wales	(24.9)	23.8

Rates for previous five years :

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Adjusted Birth Rates	19.0	15.6	15.9	15.7	14.8	13.8
Adjusted Death Rates	13.3	10.8	9.6	9.9	10.4	12.7

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	(0) 0	(1) 0	(1) 0
Measles	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Whooping Cough	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Diphtheria	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Cancer (all types)	(9) 13	(7) 13	(16) 26
Heart Disease (all forms)	(27) 23	(25) 21	(52) 44
Vascular Lesions of the nervous system	(13) 13	(7) 12	(20) 25
Diabetes	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Influenza	(2) 0	(0) 0	(2) 0
Pneumonia	(5) 1	(6) 4	(11) 5
Bronchitis	(2) 3	(1) 1	(3) 4
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ...	(1) 0	(0) 0	(1) 0
Accidents (Motor Vehicles)	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Accidents (not Motor Vehicles)	(2) 2	(0) 0	(2) 2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	(6) 21	(4) 12	(10) 33
Suicide	(1) 1	(0) 0	(1) 1
Total ...	(68) 77	(51) 63	(119) 140

SECTION C.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :

(a) Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts (Appointed 1st October, 1950).

(b) Chief Public Health Inspector :
Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944) who also holds the appointment of Engineer and Surveyor.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :
Mr. C. Boulton (appointed 16th February, 1953).

The Sanitary Inspectors (Change of designation) Act 1956, provides that Sanitary Inspectors shall in future be designated Public Health Inspectors.

Mr. E. A. Burgon, Veterinary Surgeon is appointed for the purpose of meat inspection at the Great Wratting Abattoir.

SECTION D.

WATER SUPPLIES :

The Council have two main sources of supply at Great Wratting and Depden.

Boreholes at Great Wratting being the chief source from whence water is pumped to a reservoir at Hundon Hall. The reservoir supplies 19 of your parishes and also the Stradishall R.A.F. Station. A booster pump being installed this year on the perimeter of the aerodrome to lift water to the R.A F. Tower, The water is chlorinated at Great Wratting.

Hardness is 401 in parts per million and recent analysis shows the water to be wholesome and fit for drinking. The presence of a trace of iron bacteria is noted in the Analysts report.

Your second source of supply is drawn from the Thingoe R.D.C. reservoir in their Parish of Rede, and pumped to a Tower near Depden Gate Farm. The Tower supplies your 5 Northern Parishes. This water on analysis is shown to be fit for drinking and with a hardness of 272 parts per million.

Bulk supplies are given from your schemes to Mildenhall R.D.C. for their Dunstall Green area and to Haverhill U.D.C.

Supplies are received into your area from Melford R.D.C. for the Parishes of Stansfield and Hawkedon (for a population of about 15) and from Haverhill U.D.C. for the Meldham Bridge area of Withersfield Parish to serve a population of about 48 people.

A privately owned piped supply to the Village of Stoke-by-Clare affords a supply of wholesome water to about 241 people.

It is estimated that at the end of the year 8163 people were drawing mains water (about 86 per cent. of the total population).

Consumption of water is at the rate of 17.6 gallons per person for domestic use and 32.3 gallons per person for domestic and trade use combined (in gallons per day).

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

Clare. The year has seen the completion of the laying of public sewers in Clare and drains from all but about 12 houses are connected to the new sewers. The scheme is of the "separate system" which means that only foul waters are accepted into the new sewers. Surface water from roofs, yards, etc., discharges as previously into the old sewers and culverts leading to the river.

Some cesspools and tanks require removing although their overflows are connected to the new system. Property owners are now in a position to convert the pail closets and vaults into water closets, a process which may take a number of years to complete.

With the exception of the Highfield area all sewage is pumped by electric automatic "start and stop" pumps from "The Bailey" Pumping Station to disposal works east of Clare. The final effluent, which is entirely satisfactory, discharges into the River Stour.

Cavendish. Clare works are of a size sufficient to treat sewage from Cavendish—it being anticipated that the laying of Cavendish Sewers will reach "tendering" stage in 1957.

Stradishall. During the year sewers have been laid in Stradishall and are accepting sewage from 16 Council Houses. Disposal works built east of the village are designed to treat sewage from a further 24 Council Houses and also 21 privately owned houses in the village.

The works are producing a very satisfactory effluent.

This village sewerage scheme can be completed by the laying of about 500 yards of sewer, and it is hoped this will be given consideration in the near future.

GENERAL:

Nuisance from untreated sewage discharging into ditches and elsewhere in other villages is giving constant cause for complaint by residents and Parish Councils.

It is gratifying to note that the Council are preparing detailed sewerage schemes for the villages of Kedington, Great Wratting, Withersfield, Hundon and Wickhambrook, and schemes in outline for Lidgate, Cowlinge, Great Bradley, Stoke-by-Clare and Great and Little Thurlow.

PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :

Bin Refuse is collected from about 90% of the houses in your area, fortnightly in 14 parishes and once per month in the remaining part of the area.

Collection is done by the use of one vehicle with two employees engaged full time. A new vehicle was purchased during the year and the old one is retained for night soil work and emergency use.

Pail closets in Clare and Cavendish are emptied fortnightly and closet vaults in Clare cleared quarterly. It is anticipated that many of the pails and vaults in Clare will be converted to water closets within the next twelve months.

Clearing of cesspools on Council House sites throughout the area is done by contract quarterly.

Three refuse tips are in use at Wickhambrook, Denston and Kedington. Rodent Control work is carried out by your own staff.

Collection of waste paper is done at the time of bin refuse collection. Paper is sold unsorted in bulk.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Housing (Defects and Nuisances)...	121
Housing Acts...	448
Drainage Installations	84
Housing Maintenance	493
Sewage Disposal	95
Factory Acts	17
Factory Outworkers...	19
Infectious Diseases	10
Verminous Premises...	9
Refuse Collection and Disposal	101
Petroleum Acts	39
Caravans	21
Rodent Control	135
Slaughter Houses and Knackers Yards (Meat)...	296
Food Inspection	21
Food Hygiene	50
Milk and Dairies Regulations	3
Water Supply	196
Other Matters	93

PROCEDURE UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 :

Housing complaints received (defects)	29
Informal Notices sent to Owners	22
Statutory Notices served	8
Court Actions	1
Defects Abated	20

Housing Improvements carried out as a result of Informal Action:

Internal and External Improvements	19
Drainage and Sanitary Accommodation	2
Water Supply	11
Premises disinfected and cleared of vermin	10

Samples of water were taken from five sources of private supplies, four proved to be fit for drinking purposes and one, at Hanchett End, unfit.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD;

Milk Supply:

Designated licenses in force	4

Food Premises in the Area:

General Grocers	37
Butchers	5
Greengrocers	1
Fish Shops	1
Bakers	5
Cafes	5
Public Houses	46

Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of The Food and Drugs Acts, 1955:

General Grocers and Stores	15
Bakers	1
Cafes	3
Public Houses	2

All the above are registered for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in the area.

40 inspections of Food Premises were carried out during the year.

36lbs. of food (chiefly canned) was condemned as unfit and disposed of by burying on the Council's Refuse tips.

Food Hygiene Regulations:

A summary of the provisions and requirements of these regulations has been distributed to the majority of food premises in the area. General improvements have already taken place on some premises.

Offensive Trades:

There is one blood drying establishment at Little Wratting.

Licensed Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards:

There are 6 licensed slaughter houses and two knackers yards in the area.

The following animals (not for human consumption) were received at the Knackers Yards and slaughtered by humane methods:

Cattle	226
Horses	32
Sheep	132
Pigs	35

Licensed Slaughtermen:

There are 30 licensed slaughtermen residing in the area.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	122	89	131,837	32
Number Inspected	122	89	131,837	NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	103	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	Not known	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	1.2	.89	72,025 lbs.	
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	65	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	Nil	Not known	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	6.1	Nil	192,820 lbs.	
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	4	Included in above figures of 72,025 lbs.	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil		
Generalised and totally condemned ..	N	Nil		

The bulk of rejected meat is purchased by a contractor (outside your area) and processed into animal food, fertilisers, glues, greases, etc.

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Several cases of measles occurred during the year, most of them during May and June, but fortunately the disease was of a mild type.

The incidence of other notifiable diseases during the year 1956 remained low. The three cases of food poisoning which were notified occurred as a single family outbreak.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	1 (14)	2 (12)	3 (26)
Erysipelas	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ..	5 (—)	1 (2)	6 (2)
Measles	44 (59)	32 (49)	76 (108)
Pneumonia, Acute ..	3 (—)	2 (—)	5 (—)
Poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infective Hepatitis ..	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Food Poisoning ..	— ( )	3 (-)	3 (—)

SECTION F.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	(19) 23	(11) 16	(30) 39	(4) 2	(3) 4	(7) 6	(37) 45
No. of cases added during the year	(4) 2	(5) 1	(9) 3	(—) 2	(1) 1	(1) 3	(10) 6
No. of cases removed during year	(—) 2	(—) 2	(—) 4	(2) —	(—) 2	(2) 2	(2) 6
No. remaining on register at end of year	(23) 23	(16) 15	(39) 38	(2) 4	(4) 3	(6) 7	(45) 45

SECTION G.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I. of the Act.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written notices (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	10			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	30	3			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	3	3			3
TOTAL		35	16			

2.—Cases in which Defects were found:—Nil.

PART VIII. OF THE ACT.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c Line No.	Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c)
Making of Wearing Apparel	13	38
Box Making etc.	34	47
TOTAL		85

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.